

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-37 are now in the application. Claims 1, 22 and 37 have been amended.

The Examiner is thanked for her courtesy during the interview at the U.S. Patent Office on November 15, 2006. The independent claims and the prior art were discussed. Specifically, the Examiner explained that she still could reasonably read the claims on the prior art combination of Voit and Smyk in that the "destination address" of the claims are still met by the ITG (internet telephony gateway) of the references. Counsel disagreed with the very broad reading. Counsel nevertheless agreed to provide certain claim changes that would further distinguish the claims from the applied prior art. The instant amendment is counsel's best effort to provide claims that distinguish over the prior art.

In terms of the method claim 1, the "destination address" provides a response data packet which is routed back to the calling user. The limitation is couched in the subjunctive, in order to state that the response is provided only "upon receiving the data packet." That is, the method still allows for the problem situations outlined in claims 5 and 6, where the destination address in the calling user's packet is incomplete or incorrect. The previously amended claim 36 provides a similar response, but without the subjunctive terminology.

In terms of the apparatus claims, the "mapper" is configured to map a logic computer name representing the destination address to a network address (e.g., IP address).

The ITGs of the references, of course, do not have logic computer names and they would not be recognized directly by a DNS proxy server or the like. The ITGs of the references are but nodes on the outskirts of the Internet which allow IP data (packet-switched) to be converted and transferred to a respective PSTN and vice versa.

There is no need for a mapper to map a logic computer name to the IP address of the ITG in either Voit or Smyk, because the calling user will not provide such a name when calling the telephone subscriber served by the PSTN.

The claims, as amended, are believed to be patentable over the art of record. The allowance of claims 1 and 3-37 is solicited.

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